

Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award**May 22 1997****Robert Beverly Orndorff**

The 1997 recipient of the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award given by the Virginia Academy of Science goes to, Robert Beverly Orndorff, an individual whose early life remains somewhat a mystery as colleagues could provide little information. However, this individual has been listed at least three times in "Who's Who of American Women", no small accomplishment. Mr Orndorff is also a life member of The Virginia Academy of Science.

He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in physics. Upon graduation an opportunity developed to stay in Charlottesville to report science news. After a few years this new science reporter was afforded the chance to move to Richmond to be the science writer for the Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper. After forty years of writing about science events, this now not so young reporter recently retired.

As someone trained in the area of physics, there were many areas of science that were not very familiar to this reporter. However, through diligent research every article written was scientifically correct. They were also written in a style that was entertaining and easily understood by the average reader. This ability to communicate highly technical information to the general public soon became Beverly's hallmark.

When one looks back at the past forty years and examines what has gone on in the area of science, it almost boggles the mind to think that one person could effectively write about advances in medicine, the human genome project, the environment, the advances in space with its many spin-offs, and the more mundane, yet still important, things like fall coloration. How exciting it must have been to be able to delve into all the breakthroughs in science for forty years and top all that off with insight into the everyday world.

In particular, Beverly has faithfully reported the activities of The Academy. The Virginia Junior Academy of Science consistently received coverage along with issues supported by the VAS. It is for the many years of outstanding service to science, and in particular, to the Virginia Academy of Science, that the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award is given this day, May 22, 1997 to Beverly Orndorff.